

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A system combined with a load sharing structure and a primary/backup structure, the  
2 system having a plurality of sub-systems, the system comprising:
  - 3 a primary unit disposed in each of said plurality of sub-systems to share an event  
4 processing work load according to a load sharing processing order for events;
  - 5 a backup unit disposed in each of said plurality of sub-systems to receive and store only a  
6 minimum amount of data that is necessary for restoration from a primary unit in preparation for  
7 when a primary unit malfunctions;
  - 8 a configuration management unit comprising an index mapping each backup unit with  
9 corresponding primary units, the configuration management unit managing a position of the  
10 primary unit for the backup unit;
  - 11 a distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed and configured to determine  
12 which sub-system processes events when the events are generated;
  - 13 a shared resource unit shared and used in each sub-system and occupied in the primary  
14 units;
  - 15 an event generating unit being programmed and configured to generate events; and
  - 16 a distributed control environment comprised of a middleware platform and being  
17 programmed and configured to distribute processing among the plurality of sub-systems, the  
18 configuration management unit, the distributed algorithm processing unit, and the shared  
19 resource unit.

1           2. The system of claim 1, each backup unit corresponds to a primary unit that is located  
2        in a different sub-system than the backup unit.

1           3. The system of claim 1, the configuration management unit comprising an index for  
2        processing load sharing between the primary units and comprising an index mapping each  
3        backup unit to a corresponding primary unit stored in the configuration management unit.

1           4. The system of claim 1, the distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed  
2        and configured to assign generated events in a round robin fashion to the primary units.

1           5. The system of claim 1, the distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed  
2        and configured to assign generated events to primary units that are the least congested.

1           6. The system of claim 1, the distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed  
2        and configured to calculate load sharing between the primary units and to assign a newly  
3        generated event to a primary unit based on said calculation.

1           7. A distributed control system, comprising:  
2            a plurality of sub-systems, each sub-system comprising a primary unit and a backup unit,  
3        each primary unit being programmed and configured to process generated events;

4           a configuration management unit maintaining an index mapping backup units with  
5    corresponding primary units, each backup unit storing data needed to restore a corresponding  
6    primary unit should the corresponding primary unit fail to process an event;

7           a distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed and configured to assign  
8    generated events to a primary unit within a sub-system for processing; and

9           a logical shared resource unit being accessible by each primary unit from each sub-  
10   system in the processing of said generated events.

1           8. The system of claim 7, each backup unit storing a minimum amount of data needed to  
2    replicate a corresponding primary unit if the corresponding primary unit fails.

1           9. The system of claim 7, the configuration management unit being programmed and  
2    configured process load sharing between the sub-systems.

1           10. The system of claim 7, the distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed  
2    and configured to assign generated events to various ones of said plurality of sub-systems in a  
3    round robin fashion.

1           11. The system of claim 7, the distributed algorithm processing unit being programmed  
2    and configured to assign newly generated events to a least congested sub-system for processing.

1           12. The system of claim 7, the configuration management unit and the distributed  
2       algorithm processing unit being programmed and configured to assign events only to functioning  
3       primary units and not to backup units.

1           13. The system of claim 7, the configuration management unit and the distributed  
2       algorithm processing unit are programmed and configured so that backup units do not participate  
3       in load sharing.

1           14. The system of claim 8, said backup units storing only an index of events, an ongoing  
2       status of the corresponding primary unit and information as to which resources are occupied.

1           15. The system of claim 7, each backup unit serves to duplicate a primary unit located in  
2       a different sub-system than the backup unit.

1           16. The system of claim 7, the component management unit and the distributed  
2       algorithm processing unit are programmed and configured to assign newly generated events to a  
3       primary unit in a sub-system that is least congested.

1           17. The system of claim 7, the configuration management unit being programmed and  
2       configured to generate a new primary unit and a new backup unit when a new sub-system is  
3       added to the system.

1           18. The system of claim 17, the configuration management unit being programmed and  
2       configured to reconfigure which primary units correspond to which backup units when a new  
3       sub-system is added to the system and a new primary unit and a new backup unit are generated.